

Remarks

The purpose of the current patent is to create a pallet rack structure art, whereby dry dimensional lumber, sometimes referred to as "framing lumber, can be laid side by side parallel to the horizontal cross members and function as a workbench tabletop. A corresponding patent US 6,729.371 (Sheahan and Bulk) and published on 8 August 2002 creates a workbench tabletop surface of dry dimensional lumber. Defined by this patent is the application of those principles to pallet rack construction. Although McConnell (US Patent #4,729,484) and Anderson et al (US Patent #6.155.441) teach a rack structure comprising vertical posts, cross members, and end brackets, both patents fail to delineate the means for routing of dry dimensional lumber between the front and back vertical posts and parallel to the horizontal cross beams. Both McConnell (US Patent #4,729,484) and Anderson et al (US Patent #6.155.441) in keeping with the previous art are concerned with pallets inserted perpendicular to the horizontal cross members, thus lumber is utilized. However, the positioning of dry dimensional lumber, sometimes referred to as "framing lumber," parallel to the horizontal cross members results in a undesirable/unsafe configuration for a pallet rack since a warp between dry dimensional lumber pieces could result in the fork lift toppling over the rack as the load is slid perpendicular to the horizontal cross members. This is the impetus for why the previous art only concerns itself with the application of dry dimensional lumber perpendicular to the horizontal cross members.

Defined within this patent is the means to create a new pallet rack art by the positioning of "dry dimensional lumber" parallel to the cross members and filling the complete area between the front and rear vertical posts, thus creating a workbench surface that minimizes the cutting of lumber and provides the means for extending said lumber between the front and rear vertical posts. Further enhancements disclosed by this patent ensure for the workbench tabletop to be planar, provide the means for locking the horizontal cross members, and enable additional dry dimensional lumber to be positioned below the top surface and perpendicular to it for additional support. Such features are highly desirable for workbench surfaces used in a multitude of applications.